

Appl. No. 09/980,413

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15 and 18-21 are indicated to contain subject matter which is allowable. The subject matter of claim 21 is now combined into claim 8. Claim 21 is canceled. Claim 10 is amended to conform with claim 8.

In addition, it is submitted that Fidoe et al. does not disclose or suggest any compositions that comprise metaphosphate salts or aliphatic polyhydroxy or polypyrrolidone compounds selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, mannitol, mono and di-saccharide sugars, alginates and polyvinyl pyrrolidone, together with a phosphorous containing compound. Fidoe et al. only discloses THP or THP⁻ salts within a polyvinyl alcohol bag and does not provide any teaching or suggestion towards the use of the THP or THP⁻ salts with the metaphosphate salts or aliphatic polyhydroxy or polypyrrolidone compounds as set out in new claim 8. Further, Windus does not provide any teaching or suggestion that would lead the skilled man to modify the products disclosed in Fidoe et al. so as to arrive at the product of claim 8 as this document also does not provide any teaching or

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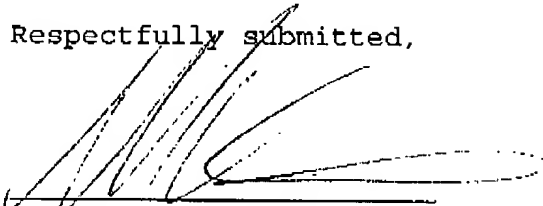
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suggestion in relation to the metaphosphate salts or the
aliphatic polyhydroxy or polypyrrolidone compounds as now set out
in claim 8.

In view thereof, allowance of the application is
respectfully requested.

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